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A HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF NEW LOTS.

KINGS COUNTY, N. Y.

BY

W. C. HAMILTON, Esq.

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BROOKLYN, N. Y.

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HISTORY
OF THE
TOWN OF NEW LOTS.

By *C. Warren Hamilton*

School Commissioner of Rural District, Kings County.

ORGANIZATION.—New Lots was organized, as a town, on the 12th day of February, 1852. Prior to that date, the territory was included within the limits of the town of Flatbush, and was known as "The New Lots," in contradistinction to "The Old Lots," near the present village of Flatbush. In area, it is the smallest of the five county towns, although the largest in population, numbering, according to the census of 1880, 13,681. It contains only about six square miles. Its seniors in age, Flatbush and Flatlands, were early settled by the Dutch, the honest, hardy sons of toil, who have made Long Island what it is often rightly called, the "Market Garden of America." As years rolled over our ancestors of those neighboring townships; and, as their available lands became tilled and their families increased, they turned their eyes toward the wilderness, that then lay between them and the cypress-crowned hills of the northeast. There they beheld arable lands in abundance, and thither went their sons to till the plains, where now stand thickly populated villages.

Early Settlers.—The names of some of the old settlers are still perpetuated by descendants, who now stand in the front rank of honorable citizens, increasing the prosperity and controlling the interests of New Lots. Among those who bear the names of the early settlers, and who in some instances occupy the old family mansions, are the Vanderveers, Van Sielens, Wyckoffs, Van Sinderens, Rapaljes, the Lotts and Scheneks.

The Old Village of New Lots is situated on the main road leading from the village of Flatbush, and familiarly known as the "Old New Lots Road." Here are stately mansions of recent erection adorned with modern embellishments. Here, too, stands the Reformed Church, the oldest in the town, and a two-story frame school-house. The village is noted as a pre-eminently healthy place; nearly all its inhabitants being connected with families remarkable for their longevity. Besides this, the town includes three other

villages, viz.: *East New York, Cypress Hills and Brooklyn.*

East New York is the largest village in the town, both in population and area. Prior to the year 1835, the residents of the territory now embraced within the limits of the town were farmers, and most of their dwellings were situated on the New Lots road. And, where East New York now stands, there were but three or four houses; one known as the "Half Way House," and kept for many years by the Howard family. The old tavern still stands at the junction of Broadway and the Jamaica turnpike. It has stood there for over one hundred years; and, past its doors, marched a part of the British army in the eventful battle of Long Island. It was the favorite stopping-place for the farmers on their way to market, and many a merry tale has been spun within its walls, mute witnesses of the many changes in the several generations that have passed away. It is showing signs of decay and must soon give place to more modern improvements. [A view of this historic tavern—so intimately connected with the Battle of Brooklyn—will be found upon the map of that battle, opposite page 53.—EDITOR]. Another old landmark was situated at the corner of Pennsylvania and Atlantic avenues. It was a three-story dwelling, built of stone, and known as the "Old Stone Building." It was torn down a few years ago, and on the site were erected buildings of more modern structure.

Such was the place in 1835, when the late John R. Pitkin, Esq., a wealthy merchant of Connecticut, passed through it. The land was level, with just enough inclination to the Great South Bay to make the problem of sewerage easy of solution. Its nearness to the cities of New York and Brooklyn, and the general appearance of the place, impressed him so favorably, that he conceived the idea of founding a city to rival that of New York. He purchased the Livingston, Wyckoff, Van Sielen and Stoothoff farms, containing a tract about two miles in length and about one mile in width. He had the land laid out into streets and city lots. He

named the place EAST NEW YORK, because it was situated east of New York City. Lots were sold varying from \$10 to \$25. The panic of 1837 proved disastrous to Mr. Pitkin's enterprise, and he was obliged to relinquish all the property to its original owners, except that portion lying between Wyckoff and Alabama avenues, which still retained the name of East New York. In July, 1853, the late Horace A. Miller and James Butler purchased about fifty acres of land lying east of Wyckoff avenue, and commenced the erection of neat and comfortable dwellings, and sold them at reasonable rates and on easy terms: thus adding largely to the population and growth of the village, which contained, according to the census of 1880, about 8,000. There are six railroads terminating at East New York: two steam and four horse roads. *The Brooklyn and Jamaica steam road*, running to Jamaica, connecting with the Long Island road from Hunter's Point to all parts of the island. Rapid-transit trains are run on this road from Flatbush avenue depot, at intervals of about twenty minutes, stopping at the Howard House and other stations in the village.

Brownsville.—This village is situated at the extreme westerly portion of the town. It takes its name from its founder, Mr. Charles S. Brown, who purchased the original land title about eighteen years ago; laid the land out into city lots and sold them to the present owners. Its streets are well laid out at a uniform width of about fifty feet. There are about three hundred and fifty frame buildings in the village, most of them comfortable cottages, occupied by a worthy and industrious class of mechanics. The close contiguity of the village to the city of Brooklyn will cause it to share largely in the rapidly increasing prosperity of the city wards adjoining it. During the past two or three years, a number of fine stores have been erected, and its business interests largely increased. Its present population is about 2,000.

Cypress Hills.—The village of Cypress Hills is situated in the north-easterly portion of the town. Fulton avenue is now extended, from East New York, throughout its entire length to the Queens County line. A horse-car road is in operation upon it, greatly facilitating travel between the village and the City of Brooklyn. The nucleus of Cypress Hills was formed around the once famous hotel of John I. Snediker, about forty years ago. The *Jewish* and *Cypress Hills Cemeteries* being soon after founded, extensive marble works followed, adding largely to the business of the place. The establishment of the *Brooklyn Water-Works*, buildings, pump-wells and machinery, near the village, also enhanced its material prosperity. The population of the village is about 3,000.

The enviable location enjoyed by the town of New Lots, is certain to bring to dwell within it a largely increased population, within a brief period:—so soon, in fact, as one of the various projects on foot to bring it

into rapid communication with the East River Bridge shall be accomplished. Possessed of extraordinary natural advantages, it will inevitably become the home of manufacturing industries, the establishment of which is all that is now required to give it rank among the foremost towns of the State.

Many of the residents of the town are engaged in business in the cities of New York and Brooklyn. There is, however, a large manufacturing interest in the town, which will be considerably increased on the introduction of public water, the works of which are rapidly approaching completion. Among the most important manufactories may be mentioned the *Unclell Fire Works Company*, which has a working force of 150, and whose paid-up capital is \$35,000; *Miles Brothers' Brush Factory*, where nearly 200 men, boys and girls, are constantly employed; *Corrigan's Brush Factory*, established in 1876, by its present owner and operator. It employs about fifty hands, turning out about 10,000 dozen leather-back horse-brushes annually. Its annual consumption of leather is about 3,000 sides; that of bristles and fibre, about three tons; *Nelson's Torpedo Factory*, where paper explosive caps are made, employs about 100 persons; the capital invested is \$250,000; *Davies & Sons' New Jersey Mills*, *Cummings & Sons' Moulding and Planing Mills*, *Rickitts' Pencil, Whip and Toy Factory*, where thirty hands are constantly employed, capital invested \$150,000; *McGuigan's Shoe-button-hole Factory* employs about fifty girls, at average wages of about eight dollars per week. There is a vast business carried on in the manufacture of clothing at the houses of the poorer inhabitants. These industrious tailors are, for the most part, Germans, and are a noteworthy, honest, frugal and thrifty class of operatives.

A great obstacle to the growth of the town has been the want of a water supply, but that is about to be furnished by the *Long Island Water Supply Company*, organized under the provisions of the laws of this State. This company has entered into a contract with the authorities of the town, and is preparing to perform its obligation. The company will expend in the construction of its system of water-works, half a million of dollars. A substantial reservoir is now in course of construction, and about twenty miles of pipes laid. Two hundred fire-hydrants are to be placed in the streets, and the public buildings supplied with free drinking-hydrants. It is expected that the works will be completed before the close of the present year.

The First Town Election was held at the hotel of John I. Snediker, Cypress Hills, on the first Tuesday in April, 1852, at 2 o'clock P. M. J. U. Forbell, F. L. Wyckoff and William H. Suydam were appointed Inspectors. Mr. Gilliam Schenck acting as Clerk.

The following Town Officers were duly elected:—
Supervisor, Ferdinand L. Wyckoff; *Turn Collector*, Gilliam Schenck; *Tax Collector*, Samuel E. Vanier.

veer; *Assessors*, Peter Rapalje, William Simmons, Williamson Rapalje; *Commissioners of Highways*, John G. Williamson, James L. Williams, John Drew; *Justices of the Peace*, Stephen P. Stoodoff, George W. Seaman, Abram S. Eldert, William H. Suydam; *Town Supt. of Schools*, J. Pascal Strong; *Constables*, Joseph H. Weeks, Thomas M. Burtis, John Duryea. Whole number of votes polled, 193.

1883, Present Town Officers.—*Supervisor*, Dittmas Jewell; *Town Clerk*, Louis Bierderman; *Tax Collector*, George W. Palmer; *Justices of the Peace*, Chas. Gertum, William Shirlock, Emil Schiellein, William Watson; *Commissioners of Highways*, Philip L. Jardin, N. Livingston Duryea, Thomas F. Ryan; *Assessors*, George Forbell, William Stoodoff, Henry I. Eldert.

The town is divided into five election districts. The total number of votes polled in 1883, at the annual election for Supervisor, was 2,249.

Union Gas Light Company.—The site upon which the works of this company are built is about one acre in extent, lying almost in the centre of the town. The buildings front on Adams street, and are solid structures of brick.

The capacity of the works are ample to meet the requirements of East New York, and the territory surrounding it, for many years to come. The facilities are now adequate to a supply of 60,000 feet every twenty-four hours. At present only 12,000 feet of gas are nightly being supplied throughout the town; but, in the winter season the demand averages about 25,000 feet.

The utmost credit is due to the Union Company for the liberal scale on which they have provided for the supply of an article so indispensable to the business interests and the home comforts of this community, as is the article of gas. That the company has acted towards the people in an unselfish, and, it were not too much to say, a generous manner—is apparent from the fact that, save one dividend, they have appropriated all the earnings of the company to the improvement of the works.

The history of the Union Gas Works extends back to 1861, in which year they were built, at an original cost of \$50,000. But, in the year 1872 it was found that the facilities were inadequate to an efficient supply, and the large gasometer, built by Thomas F. Rowland of Greenpoint, was purchased, new retorts erected and buildings added and stocked with new machinery, at a cost of about \$70,000.

Newspapers.—The newspaper enterprise of the town dates as far back as 1838, when the late John R. Pitkin, Esq., the pioneer of East New York, commenced the publication of a monthly paper called "*The Mechanic*." The office of publication was in what was then known as the "old stone building" at the corner of Atlantic and Pennsylvania avenues. The *Mechanic* was devoted to the interest of real estate in the village

of East New York, in the sale of which Mr. Pitkin was largely interested. Its publication, however, was discontinued after the first year.

In 1853, Mr. C. Warren Hamilton issued the first number of the "*Kings County Advertiser and Villager Guardian*." The office of publication was also in the "old stone building." The *Advertiser* reached its third volume, when it passed into other hands, and under the name of the "*Kings County Journal*" was continued until about the year 1865. In 1866, Mr. Matthew Cooper, a practical printer, became a resident of East New York, and soon after commenced the publication of the *East New York Sentinel*—an independent paper. It is published every Saturday, and has a large and increasing circulation.

In 1870, a stock company was organized under the name of the "*New Lots Journal Association*," and about the first of September of the same year, issued the first number of the *New Lots Journal*, with the Rev. Joseph I. Elsegood as editor. The stock of the *Journal* was, soon after, sold to A. B. Proctor and C. Warren Hamilton. Its publication was continued by them, under the name of the *Kings County Leader*.

On the 3d of January, 1874, the stock and fixtures were sold to Messrs. A. H. W. Van Sielen and Richard Pickering, who commenced the publication of the *Long Island Record*. About a year after, Mr. Van Sielen withdrew, and its publication was continued under the proprietorship of Mr. Pickering. The *Record* is an independent family and business journal; and, under its present management is rapidly growing in public favor, as its increasing circulation gives ample proof. It is published every Saturday morning in the village of East New York.

The *East New York Laterne*, a weekly newspaper published in the German language, was established on the 10th of February, 1878, by the German Press Association of the town of New Lots, "Limited." C. W. C. Dreher, by whose efforts the paper was started, became its responsible editor; and, after the first six months, sole proprietor, he having bought out all the stockholders. The paper was then enlarged, and entered upon its era of success, maintaining among the German population of the town and neighborhood a conservative influence in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the people. Up to February 10th, 1883, it had firmly established itself, supplying a want which made itself felt among that nationality. In the spring of 1883, Mr. Philip Midas became Publisher, Editor and sole Proprietor. The *Laterna* is published every Friday, and, as an advertising medium, it is not exceeded by any other paper in the town.

Police Department.—In 1870, the Metropolitan Police District was abolished, and the towns of Kings County were left without police protection. The Brooklyn Police Bill was accordingly amended, giving authority, to the Town Boards of the several towns, to

apply to the Police Commissioners of the City of Brooklyn, under a requisition for the appointment of as many men as policemen as was deemed necessary. Under this authority, the Board of the town of New Lots, in 1871, applied for the appointment of three men; who were duly appointed. In 1873, three more policemen were appointed. A building was rented, on Liberty avenue, for the use of the police as a station-house and lock-up. The building was, however, found to be entirely inadequate to meet the wants of the Department; and, as a law had been passed, giving authority to the Town Board to bond the town in the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of erecting a Town House, in some central location, it was deemed best to proceed at once, under the provisions of the Act, to erect a building for the use of the police.

Accordingly in June, 1873, a plot of ground, 50 by 100 feet, was purchased of Horace A. Miller, on Butler avenue, between Atlantic and Fulton avenues, for the sum of \$1,400; and a substantial two-story and basement brick structure erected thereon. On the 11th day of December, 1873, the building was formally handed over to the town. A local paper, speaking of the completion of the building, says: "The building committee, Judges Dowling, Hamilton and Wolfert deserve the thanks of the citizens for the manner in which they have watched over the interest of the tax-payers of the town. The Town House is a credit to the Town Board; to the architect, Wm. T. Smith, and to the contractors, Messrs. Sullivan and Seidler; and we fully agree with the Supervisor of the town, in saying that the town has got a dollar's worth for every dollar expended."

In 1878, an Act was passed, known as the "New Lots Police Bill," authorizing the Supervisor, President of the Excise Commission, and the Justice having the shortest term to serve, to appoint three Police Commissioners to have full control of the police department. Accordingly, in June, 1878, the following commissioners were appointed: Peter Sutter, Jno. K. Powell and Henry L. Wyckoff. A vacancy soon after occurring by the death of Mr. Wyckoff, the Supervisor, who was empowered to fill vacancies, appointed Mr. Richard Pickering.

The department consisted of the following members: Wm. F. Early, *Captain*; Henry French, *Sergeant*; Peter J. Kennedy, *Sergeant*; John Fisher, *Roundsmen*; Patrick Brophy, Adam Busch, William E. Dupignac, Simeon Neiger and Edward Downing, *Patrolmen*.

The present organization of the department is as follows:

Peter Sutter, John K. Powell and Richard Pickering, *Commissioners*; Benjamin Ronsch, *Clerk*; Henry French, *Captain*; Patrick Brophy, *1st Sergeant*; William F. Early, *2d Sergeant*; Christian Reimels, *3d Sergeant*; John Ringshauser, Robert Kortwright, *Roundsmen*; John Fisher, Wm. E. Dupignac,* Thomas J. Herbert, Charles Nichols,* William Howard, Geo. So-

pers, John Brinsley, William Fosdick, Charles Sutter, *Patrolmen*; Samuel M. Palmer, *Keeper of the Locks*.

The department is well equipped with Ambulances, horses, &c., and is under most excellent discipline.

Fire Department.—On the fifteenth day of August, 1860, as F. Oscar Doremus, Samuel W. Palmer, Frank E. Rose and William B. Howard sat in the carpenter shop of Mr. Doremus, situated on the Southwest corner of Atlantic and Van Sielen avenues, reciting the many incidents connected with their experience as members of the Old Volunteer Fire Department of New York City, the subject of organizing a fire-company in the town was suggested. The idea met with a hearty response, and a meeting was held that very evening, and a company organized under the name of *Americus Engine Co. No. 1*, with the following officers: F. O. Doremus, *Foreman*; Samuel W. Palmer, *Assistant*; Charles H. Garbutt, *Secretary*; and Samuel Rose, *Treasurer*. A fire engine was purchased in Brooklyn. The company soon numbered thirty-four active members.

On the 5th day of February, 1861, the first fireman's ball in the town was held at the Hotel of Henry Z. on the Jamaica Plank road. The ball was well attended by the best citizens of the town. The fire Henry Jefferson acted as floor manager. In the early part of 1862 the engine company disbanded and organized *Union Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1*, with Geo. R. Provost, *Foreman*; Samuel W. Palmer, *Assistant*; Charles H. Garbutt, *Secretary*; and Samuel L. Rose, *Treasurer*. A truck was purchased at a cost of \$150. The company numbered 30 members.

On the 15th of March, 1864, S. W. Palmer, W. B. Howard and others, from the Truck, organized the company known as *Empire Engine Co. No. 1*, with the following officers: F. O. Doremus, *Foreman*; Samuel Doremus, *Secretary*; and Samuel Palmer, *Treasurer*. Under the direction of Martin Bennett and his estimable lady a fair was held for the benefit of the company. A handsome sum was realized, and an engine was purchased at a cost of \$700.

Hope Hose, No. 1, was soon after organized. This company is now known as *Liberty Hose Co. No. 1*.

The Department was duly chartered by an act of the Legislature March 16th, 1865, with Samuel W. Palmer as *President*, W. B. Howard, as *Vice-President*, and Charles H. Garbutt, as *Secretary*. The first election of officers was held on the first Monday in December, 1866. Samuel W. Palmer was elected *Chief Engineer*; Geo. R. Provost, *Assistant Chief*, and Charles H. Garbutt, *Treasurer*. Up to the time of the first election, the President acted as *Chief Engineer*. The Department at present consists of the following companies:

Union Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, with the following officers: John Weisbrod, *Foreman*; August 16, 1867, *Secretary*. The company numbers forty members.

* Mounted.

Neptune Engine Co., No. 1, with the following officers: William Lehman, *Foreman*; James De Clue, *Secretary*—with a roll of twenty-eight members.

Alert Pump Co., No. 1, with the following officers: John Sonnen, *Foreman*; Martin Wernert, *Secretary*. This company has had an average of forty members since its organization in 1875.

Liberty Hose Co., No. 1, with the following officers: Henry Distler, *Foreman*; William Sheriff, *Secretary*. This company numbers twenty-five members.

Independent Pump and Bucket Co., No. 2, with the following officers: John Kelley, *Foreman*; Fred Weinhardt, *Secretary*. Number of members, thirty.

Franklin Engine Co., No. 2, with the following officers: T. A. Cummings, *Foreman*, and Geo. McMannis, *Secretary*. This company numbers forty members.

The Department is under the direction of a board of trustees, consisting of four members from each company. Geo. F. Browning is President of the Board and Charles H. Smith, Secretary. John J. Kennedy is the present Chief and Geo. N. Lenfestry, Assistant Chief of the Department. The town is divided into six fire districts, with fire alarm stations in each district, connected with the police station by telegraph, from which a general alarm is given.

Churches.—There is, perhaps, no town of its size in the State that contains so many church edifices, and contributes so liberally toward their support, as the town of New Lots. Nearly all religious denominations are represented. It may well be called “the town of churches.”

The Reformed Church is located on the New Lots road. It was erected in 1823; and is the oldest church edifice in the town. It was dedicated in July, 1824, the Rev. John Alburtis officiating. During the following year this church united with that of Flatlands, in calling upon the Rev. Wm. Crookshank, who in February, 1825, was ordained and installed pastor of the two churches. In April, 1835, he resigned his charge and removed to the village of Newburgh, N. Y. On the 22d of March, 1836, the Rev. J. Abel Baldwin became pastor of these churches. He officiated among them with much acceptance for many years; finally taking charge of the Flatlands church alone. The Rev. John Van Buren was called to the pastorate of the church at New Lots, and continued in charge for nearly twelve years. He was succeeded by the Rev. C. W. Woods; who, after a successful pastorate of about six years, was followed by the Rev. N. W. Pierce, the present pastor. The Sunday-school connected with this church numbers about 150 scholars. Mr. David Hopkins, a long and zealous worker in the church, is the present Superintendent.

Reformed Church, East New York.—In 1828, a New Reformed Church was built, in the village of

East New York. It is situated on New Jersey avenue, near Fulton avenue. This church was dedicated in the Spring of 1839; Mr. Williamson Rapalje, Sen., one of the present elders, being one of the first elders elected. In May 1840, the Rev. Wm. H. Campbell was installed as pastor. He continued here until the Fall of 1841; when he removed to Albany, to take charge of the Third Reformed Church of that city. He was succeeded by the Rev. Martin V. Schoonmaker, whose pastorate continued for seven years. After an interim of about a year, the Rev. J. Pascal Strong was called to the pastorate, and served for about five years. In 1855, the present commodious church edifice was erected, as the old building had become too small to accommodate the growing wants of the community. In June, 1856, the Rev. Anson F. Munn was called; and closed his pastorate in 1857. On the 6th of May, 1858, the Rev. C. R. Blauvelt, began his ministry in the church, continuing until 1875; when he was succeeded by the Rev. William J. Hill, who after a very successful ministry of seven years, was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. Daniel Van Pelt.

The Sabbath-School connected with this church numbers 472 scholars. Its success is largely due to Mr. Ditmas Jewell, who during a period of nearly twenty years zealously performed the duties of Superintendent. Mr. Jewell was succeeded by Mr. Miles A. Brown, the present able Superintendent.

Trinity P. E. Church.—Celebrated the 25th, Anniversary of its consecration, on Sunday the 22d day of November, 1879, with a “Jubilee.” The services were of a highly interesting character, and at their conclusion the rector, Rev. Dr. J. I. Elsegoed, delivered a historical address. In this he quoted from a letter written by the first rector of this parish, the Rev. Dexter Potter, who was prevented, by age and feebleness, from being present, the following facts:

In 1854, or a short time previous to this date, when vacant lands in and about East New York were being purchased with a view to form a village, one of those concerned in that business, the late Mr. Horace A. Miller, offered to give the lot of ground on which the church now stands, provided a Protestant Episcopal church could be erected thereon. The Rev. Dexter Potter, to whom the offer was made, after due consultation with the Bishop of the Diocese, commenced the collection of subscriptions for that purpose. While he was thus engaged, the building owned by the Dutch Reformed congregation, in East New York, became for sale and was purchased by a gentleman for other than ecclesiastical purposes. This building was purchased by the Rev. Mr. Potter, who was obliged to advance a considerable sum from his own means, in order to effect the purchase. The building was removed to the ground donated by Mr. Miller, where it now stands, and the Parish was organized September 11, 1854. The

deed of the lot was given to the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, in East New York, and an excellent bell was given to the parish by Mr. D. D. Lyon, then the sexton of Trinity Church, New York City.

The consecration sermon was preached by the Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter, D.D., Bishop of Pennsylvania. The names of the first Wardens and Vestry-men of this Parish were as follows: Lyman Cobb and Herman H. Kettenhorn, *Wardens*; Noyes G. Pahner, Robert Edmunds, James Davies, James S. Williams, James D. Davies, Augustus Ivins, Charles R. Miller and Sammel Davies, *Vestry-men*. On the 24th of March, 1857, through the decease of much a loved brother, the Rev. Mr. Potter was constrained to resign the Rectorship of the Parish and remove to Cambridge, Mass., where he still resides.

The Rev. J. F. Delaphine Cornell was then chosen Rector of the Parish. He was a young gentleman possessed of considerable talent, eloquence and zeal, and he entered upon his work amid great and many encouragements; but in October, 1858, through an over-taxation of the brain, he became suddenly and completely mentally prostrated. He was removed at once to the Insane Asylum at Flatbush, where he still continues without hope of recovery. In October, 1859, the Rev. Charles Cleveland, D.D., was called to, and accepted the Rectorship of the parish. He continued faithfully at his post until February, 1866, when he was removed by death.

In May of the same year, the Rev. T. McKee Brown accepted a call to become Rector, and continued until May, 1868, when he resigned in order that he might enter upon another field of labor. The Rev. John Morgan then became Rector, and remained until October, 1868.

In the summer of 1869, a vestibule, or porch, and a pleasant chancel were added, lancet windows were made to replace the old square ones, the organ loft was renovated, altered and improved; and the entire building within and without was handsomely renovated and refurnished. A handsome chancel window was ordered and paid for by the Sunday-school of the parish.

In 1873 the present organ was purchased and paid for by the "Ours" Association; which, with the *Ladies' Aid*, and the *Penny Aid Societies* are most important aids for church work. In 1875 the old and uncomfortable pews were removed, and the floor relaid; the present attractive pews were introduced with centre and two sides aisles.

The Sunday school connected with this church is in a very flourishing condition, numbering about 500 scholars. Much credit is due to Mr. James D. Davies, who for nearly twenty years was its kind and faithful Superintendent. About a year ago Mr. Harry E. Cluff was appointed as Mr. Davies' successor, and is the present Superintendent.

Ebenezer M. E. Church.—In the early part of

the year 1860, the Rev. Charles Fletcher, then Presiding Elder of the district embracing the town of New Lots, preached in the Lutheran German Church on Liberty avenue, East New York, to those who desired to establish, in that village, a Methodist Episcopal Church. Deep interest was manifested, a society organized, and services continued in the school-house on Vermont avenue. On the 5th day of March, 1861, a permanent organization was effected, under the name of the *East New York M. E. Church*, and the following board of trustees elected: John McKellop, Ebenezer Wilson, Wm. H. Hoyt, James Miller, and Wm. Hardenburgh.

On the 25th of July, 1863, the large Hall in the Central Buildings, corner of Atlantic and Van Siclen avenues, was rented and services were held every Sabbath. In 1865, the church at East New York was united with the M. E. Church at Cypress Hills, under the pastorate of the Rev. Curtis Graham. In 1866, the church was again separated, and re-organized as the *Methodist Protestant Church*. A new board of trustees was elected, and the Rev. E. F. Jones called to the pastorate. In this year a new church was erected on Fulton avenue, which afterwards came into the possession of the Evangelical German Church; and Brown's Hall was secured as a place of worship, with the Rev. L. D. Nicolson as pastor. At the end of two years he was succeeded by the Rev. Henry Aston. During the pastorate of Mr. Aston, through the financial aid of Mr. William Barker, a wealthy resident of Clinton avenue, Brooklyn, ground was broken on the 20th of October, 1868, and the present commodious church edifice on Williams avenue, erected—having received its present name of the "Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church."

The church was dedicated on the 11th of January, 1869, having been completed in the remarkably short time of twenty-one days. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev. Abel Stephens, D.D.

PASTORS: 1870, Rev. Mr. Smart; 1871, Rev. Joseph Thomas; 1873, Rev. William Platts; 1876, Rev. C. W. Powell; 1879, Rev. B. F. Reeves; 1881, Rev. Wm. H. Russell; 1882, Rev. J. W. Simpson, the present pastor. During his pastorate, 64 new members have been added to the church; and during the last conference year, the sum of \$1,600 has been raised by voluntary subscriptions in aid of the church. Extensive repairs to the building are now in progress, and when completed, the church will rank among the first in the town. During the pastorate of the Rev. B. F. Reeves, a new parsonage was built on the lots adjoining the church, at a cost of about \$3,000.

In January, 1850, the church suffered a severe loss in the death of WILLIAM VRADENBURGH, a member of the first board of trustees; and who, for nearly twenty years, had been a faithful and zealous member and worker in the Church. On the 12th day of June, 1871, Daniel Veiteh, Esq., was appointed Superintendent of

the Sunday School, and much of its present prosperity is due to his faithful work during the seven years that he had charge. The school now numbers about 300 scholars, under the able superintendency of Philip Evans, Esq.

First Baptist Church.—On the 17th of July, 1864, a number of citizens of the village of East New York met and organized a Baptist Sunday School. Charles Truax, Esq., was appointed Superintendent. He was ably assisted in his work by his estimable wife. Mr. James J. Miller and B. P. Sturges, Esq., took a deep interest in the school, and much good was accomplished. In July, 1865, a Society was organized under the name of the *First Baptist Church of East New York*, and the Rev. John Willett was chosen pastor. Soon after, a Fair was held, and the sum of \$500 realized. The success of the Fair was largely due to the kind assistance of the Washington avenue Baptist Church, of Brooklyn. John H. Tripler, of this church, donated 32 seats and cushions, and the church gave the sum of \$325.

Meetings were held in what was known as Wagoner's Hall, on Smith and Liberty avenues. On the 27th of March, 1866, it was resolved to build a church; lots were accordingly purchased on Smith avenue, near Fulton. Mr. B. P. Sturges, who had taken a deep interest in the welfare of the church, generously tendered for the use of the society a chapel, which he had erected near his residence, on Division avenue. In the meantime, steps had been taken for the erection of a church. The society, however, met with but little success. The church was soon after completed, but the society found itself heavily in debt. In 1871, Rev. W. F. Benedict was called to the pastorate. In April, of this year, steps were taken to free the church from its heavy burden of debts; and the church was soon in a more prosperous condition. In 1873, Rev. W. F. Benedict was succeeded in the pastorate by the Rev. J. H. Dudley. But it was not till 1874, when the Rev. Charles Coleman was called to the pastorate, that the church was relieved from all financial embarrassment.

In April, 1882, the Rev. James L. Hodge was called to the pastorate. The Sabbath-School connected with the church numbers about 150 scholars, under the able superintendency of William C. Anderson, with a corps of twelve teachers.

German Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Liberty and Vermont avenues, was built in 1847. In the early part of 1848, the Rev. F. G. Zeuner was installed as the first pastor. After about two years he was succeeded by the Rev. Carl Schaum. He continued pastor for about fourteen years, and was succeeded by the present pastor, the Rev. J. F. Flath. During his pastorate the congregation has largely increased in numbers and much good accomplished. In 1868, extensive additions were made to the building, and it is now one of the largest edifices in the town.

The Sabbath-School connected with the church, under the supervision of Carl Wonberger, Esq., is doing a most excellent work, numbering 175 scholars with nineteen teachers.

Andrews' Methodist Episcopal Church, located on Clinton avenue, Cypress Hills. This society was organized in the early part of 1851. The first meeting was held at the residence of Richard H. Pill, Sen., in East New York; and one afterward at the house of Mr. Lindsey, at Cypress Hills, over which Mr. Geo. W. Seaman presided, and Isaac B. Soper acted as Secretary. At this meeting, it was decided to build a church, the same to be 25x38 feet, and height of ceiling to be 15 feet, and with a basement. Garrett Denton, Geo. W. Seaman, Isaac U. Forbill, Richard H. Pill, Sen., and Isaac B. Sopers were elected the first Board of Trustees, all of which are now deceased, except Mr. Pill, who is nearly ninety years of age.

The first deed was executed by Joseph F. Bridges and wife to Garrett Denton and others, trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church, of Union Place (now Cypress Hills), Town of Flatbush (now New Lots), County of Kings and State of New York, June 23d, 1851. About this time it was decided to break ground for the new church, its erection to commence after the 15th of September of the same year.

Pastors.—The first minister officiating at a baptism was Rev. Daniel DeVinne, then stationed at Newtown; but, in 1855 and 1856, was stationed at Union Place, now Cypress Hills. From this time until 1861 it was supplied by local ministers; 1861, Rev. Stephen Rushmore; 1862, the Rev. C. S. Williams was the preacher in charge, and in 1863 and 1864.

The first enrollment of members found was made in 1853, but no account when the classes were formed. There were three classes, numbered 1, 2 and 3. Wm. Vradenburg was Leader of 1 and 2, and George H. McCoy was Leader of Class No. 3. The first date of a probationer was January 1, 1853. The Sunday-School was organized in 1852, and George W. Seaman was elected its first Superintendent.

In 1865-66 and '67 Rev. C. Graham was the minister in charge. During his ministry a great revival occurred, and a large number were converted, both in this and adjacent communities. During 1868-69 and '70, Rev. W. Wake was in charge; and in the year 1870 the church was enlarged so that now it has seating capacity for about 350 persons. In 1871-72, Rev. C. T. Mallory; 1873 and 1874, Rev. W. Gothard; 1875, '76, '77, Rev. W. L. Holmes; in 1878 and '79, Rev. T. M. Terry; the Rev. F. Brown succeeded him and is now in his third year.

In July, 1872, the name of the Church was legally changed, and the Board of Trustees are known as "The Trustees of the *Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church of Cypress Hills*, Town of New Lots, Kings County, and State of New York." The number of members now

enrolled on its books is 109. In the Sunday-School there are 269 teachers and scholars. Its membership is composed of those who have to earn their daily livelihood, and who struggle hard to sustain the church. The Society was never in its history financially better than it is now, for which the church is largely indebted to the ladies connected with the congregation. In the early part of this church's history it was connected with the East New York charge in its Quarterly Conferences; but at the Quarterly Conference held September 8th, 1872, it was agreed to separate and have two distinct Quarterly Conferences.

The Rev. Charles Doughty, the present Superintendent of the Sunday-School, is an earnest and faithful worker in the church, and to him is due much of its success as a church.

First Congregational Church.—This church is located on Rockaway avenue, in the village of Brownsville. A little band, representing different evangelical denominations, as early as June, 1866, began to meet at private houses for social worship, in the hope of imparting and receiving mutual benefit. At length, the use of a room centrally located having been secured, a Sunday-School was organized on July 28th, 1868, numbering, besides the superintendent, seven male and four female teachers, with twenty-four male and twenty-six female scholars. The weekly prayer meeting was likewise continued, with services on the Sabbath for preaching when preaching could be obtained, or, in the absence of this, for exhortation, prayer and conference, by the few brethren who were willing to aid. At one of these meetings, held June, 1867, at the residence of Mr. G. S. Thatford, the query was incidentally raised—whether the effort ought not to be made to establish a church. The responses indicating a willingness to contribute and labor for such an object, it was at once resolved to institute the needful preliminary measures; which measures were happily crowned with success. To Mr. Havilah Mowrey, city missionary, it is only a proper acknowledgment to state that in this, as in every prior stage of the history of the church from the beginning, the citizens were largely indebted, for the result, to his wise counsels and unremitting co-operation. Although beyond the limits of his district, he seldom failed to be present at the meetings when permitted by other engagements, and about \$2,000 raised by his personal solicitation were paid by him towards defraying the cost of the building and its furniture. Much credit is likewise due to J. G. Cooley, Esq., for donating the valuable melodeon now in use, besides \$100 in money. By funds thus procured, with other sums obtained from friends residing or having interests in the neighborhood, and \$500 appropriated by the Congregational Union, the entire church property was, before the commencement of this current year, made free from debt. The ground on which the church stands was donated by Mr. G. S. Thatford, and

consists of two lots, being 50 feet front by 120 feet deep. The edifice itself, which is 30 feet front by 45 feet deep, cost \$3,500, and was dedicated on Monday, 31st of May, 1869; and an ecclesiastical organization effected under the title of the *First Congregational Church of New Lots*; it having been determined at a previous meeting, after due notice, to adopt the Congregational name and principles.

At a meeting of the church and society regularly convened, on Monday evening, December 20th, 1869, the Rev. I. S. Davison, who had for more than a twelve-month filled the pulpit once each Lord's day without pecuniary remuneration, was invited to the pastorate; and the American Home Missionary Society having commissioned him with the promise of aid in his support, arrangement was accordingly effected for one year, beginning with January 1st, 1870; when two preaching services instead of one every Sabbath were inaugurated, together with a Pastor's Bible-Class.

At the close of the Rev. I. S. Davison's charge, the Rev. I. C. Lockwood was called to the pastorate. In September, 1871, the Rev. C. N. N. Pannell became pastor, and remained until 1876, when the Rev. A. H. Kirkland took charge. He continued until 1880. In July, 1880, the Rev. H. N. Wright was called, and continued pastor eighteen months; when he was succeeded by the Rev. Curtis Graham. He remained about one year and was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. C. F. Decker. This church at present numbers about 80 members. The Sunday-school connected with the church numbers 125 scholars; and, under the able superintendence of Mr. E. E. Stewart, who has had charge for the past nine years, is doing a most excellent work.

Union Congregational Church.—This society is an offshoot of the Congregational church at Brownsville, and is at present temporarily located at the corner of Johnson and Liberty avenues. The society is at present in a very flourishing condition, and largely increasing in numbers, and is soon to erect a new church on Orient avenue near East New York avenue. It is under the charge of the Rev. Curtis Graham. Mr. E. E. Stewart is Superintendent of the Sunday-school, which numbers about 100 scholars.

St. Malachi's R. C. Church.—This church, located on Van Siclen avenue near Atlantic, was built in the year 1854, under the supervision of the Rev. Father Bown, pastor of Holy Cross, in the town of Flatbush. A parochial school was established, in 1867, by the Rev. Father Creighton, the first resident pastor. The school has been under the instruction of the Sisters of St. Joseph since 1871, the Rev. Father Carroll being then pastor. The school buildings are pleasantly located, adjoining the church. The school is under most excellent supervision and has an average daily attendance of about 200 pupils. In 1873, under the direction and supervision of the church, an *Orphan Asylum* was established. A large three-story brick building adjoin-

ing the school buildings was purchased and fitted up to meet the wants of the institution. Provision is made for both boys and girls under the careful instruction of the Sisters. In 1872 the Rev. John Prerell succeeded Father Carroll to the pastorate, and remained until 1874, when he was succeeded by the Rev. P. J. McNamara. On the 15th of August, 1877, the present pastor, the Rev. Father O'Connell, took charge of the parish. During the six years of his faithful administration much good has been accomplished, and extensive additions have been made to the church edifice.

The young men of the parish identified with the church organized, on the 6th of May, 1883, the *Young Men's Catholic Lyceum Association*, the object of which was to form a bond of social union among the young men of the church, which is in a very flourishing condition. Preliminary steps have been taken for the erection of a large hall for its accommodation. The association is a branch of what is known as the "Diocesan Union of Kings County," a body composed of representatives from the different Young Men's Roman Catholic Associations of this vicinity.

The officers of the association are as follows: *President*, John Maguire; *Vice-President*, James Sinnot; *Rec. Secretary*, Geo. Sherlock. It numbers about eighty members.

St. Michael's R. C. Church.—For several years the need of a German Roman Catholic Church at East New York, town of New Lots, had been apparent, but it was not until the 25th of January, 1860, that steps were taken by the Rev. Philip Albrecht, pastor of St. Benedict's, New Brooklyn, and St. Francis, Bedford, by calling a meeting for the purpose of considering the subject of erecting a church. At this meeting fifty of the best German families were represented.

By consent of the Right Rev. J. Laughlin, D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn, four lots were purchased on John street between Liberty and Atlantic avenues. The building was planned, and work was commenced and progressed so rapidly that the corner stone was laid on the 18th of April, 1860. The building was a small, plain, frame structure, forty feet in length by thirty feet in width, with steeple. It was dedicated by the Bishop on the 30th day of June, 1860, and placed under the invocation of St. Michael the Archangel. A bell was procured and blessed by the Bishop, assisted by the Rev. Charles Peine, on Palm Sunday, 1860. The Rev. Charles Peine was appointed first pastor of the church. The first baptism took place on August 6th, 1860; the first marriage July 8th, 1860. On the 12th of May, 1861, nine boys and three girls made their first communion in the new church. Palm Sunday, 1862, the station of the cross was erected. The first mission was held by Rev. Launhuber, S. I., under the pastorate of Rev. Cyril Zielinski, successor of Rev. Peine, at the end of June, 1863.

Rev. Zielinski was pastor from February, until Au-

gust, 1863, when Rev. M. I. Decker succeeded him, from October, 1863, until May, 1864. Again, in May, 1864, Rev. Peine took charge of the congregation. In October, 1863, the pastoral residence was commenced by the side of the church and finished by Rev. Peine. Its first story was used for school purposes. In July, 1866, Rev. Caspar Muller was appointed pastor. The first of February, 1868, two lots on the right side of the pastoral residence were bought for a new school building.

Rev. A. Oberschneider was pastor from August, 1863, until January, 1871, when Rev. I. Michaels became pastor. He held three missions, given by the Redemptorists, Capucins and Jesuits.

In March, 1875, Rev. Aug. Maria Niemann took charge of St. Michael's. Rev. Niemann seeing the necessity of enlarging the church, since the congregation had increased very much, added sixty feet to it with the consent of the bishop in September, 1875.

This pastor was the first who introduced plain chant and it is sung to the present day. He also bought three more lots in 1876, and again another lot in 1878, and two in 1879, situated on Washington street, between Atlantic and Liberty avenues. The congregation and work becoming greater, an assistant priest was sent on the first of January, 1881.

In September, 1881, there was a mission given by the Redemptorist Fathers Keitz and Zinnen.

Evangelical German Church is situated on Fulton avenue, near Wyckoff. It was organized in 1869, with 35 male members, meeting in the church edifice, which was built by another church denomination in 1866, but was purchased by the trustees of the Evangelical German Church in 1872. The church is under the pastorate of the Rev. John Eschmann, who has had charge of the church during the fourteen years of its existence. Under his faithful charge, the congregation has largely increased in numbers and much good has been accomplished.

Connected with the church is a Sabbath-school under the supervision of the pastor. The school numbers about 150 scholars with twelve teachers. The school has a library of about 300 volumes.

Public Schools—In the early part of the year 1740, the easterly portion of the town of Flatbush, known as the "New Lots," was organized into a separate school district, known as No. 2. A small one-story frame school-house was erected near the present school-building on the New Lots road. No record can be found of those who taught in this first school-house, prior to the year 1806. At that time Peter Nufus was employed as teacher, and he was the first to teach in the English language; his predecessors taught in the Dutch language exclusively. Mr. Nufus ended his services as teacher about the year 1810. That year also ended the usefulness of the first school-house, for in the early part of the year it was torn down to make

oom for a more commodious structure. The following were the building committee: Tunis Schenck, Isaac Snediker, Abraham Van Sielen, John Blake and John Williamson.

The building was a two-story frame structure, the top floor being used for the purpose of holding lectures, singing-schools, etc.; the first floor was used as a school-room. During the time the building was under construction, sessions of the school were held in the barn, now belonging to Mr. William Hopkins, Sr. The first teacher employed in the new school-house was a Mr. Sebra, succeeded by a Mr. Hall; Mr. Jacob Bergen, an efficient and successful teacher; Mr. William Lawrence, from 1835 to 1838; Mr. John Woodman, from 1838 to 1844; Mr. H. J. Hamilton, until his death, in 1853; Mr. Geo. A. F. North, 1853 to 1856; C. Warren Hamilton, 1856 to 1857; William Vradenburgh, 1857 to 1860; J. Kelley, 1860 to 1862; Abraham VanKeuren (at present connected with the school); A. G. Kimberly as the principal of the school. In 1875, Mr. Vradenburgh was again appointed as principal and remained until his death in 1879. He was succeeded by James K. Coles; he by Charles Libby; he by Thomas D. Hyatt; and he by T. S. Imaly, the present principal.

During Mr. William Lawrence's time, in 1835, the interior of the building was somewhat changed. The first floor was converted into dwelling apartments in which the teachers resided up to the time of the engagement of Mr. VanKeuren, the top floor alone being used as a school-room. In 1873, the building was again remodelled. The first floor was fitted up for the grammar department, while the top floor was used for the primary classes, and is so used at present. In 1880, two new school-buildings were erected in the district as branch schools. The following is a list of the present teachers in the district: T. S. Imaly; Abraham Van Keuren; Charles Barnes; Miss Emma Smith; Miss Annie Smith; Miss Lizzie Veitch; Miss Rebecca Clayton. The following are the present school officers: William Hopkins, Jacob Cozzine, C. G. Suydam. The number of children of school age, residing in the district, is about 1000. The assessed valuation of property in the district in 1882 was \$722,320. The school-houses and sites are valued at \$14,000.

In 1847 John B. Zabriskie, M. D., then Town Superintendent of Schools, was petitioned to set off and organize a new school district, to embrace all the territory now included in *district No. 2*, East New York, and *district No. 3*, Cypress Hills. The petition was granted and a new district organized, the school being located at East New York. The following trustees were elected: Isaac C. Schenck, William P. Stoothoff and David Storms. A site was purchased on Vermont avenue near Fulton avenue and a school-house built, which still remains, although very much changed in appearance. It was built by Henry L. Eldert at a cost

of \$479. On the completion of the building Mr. James Clegg was employed as teacher, who, after about two years, was succeeded by Isaac Sopers. In 1853 he was succeeded by C. Warren Hamilton, who remained about four years and was succeeded by Mr. A. Ketchum. Then followed Geo. A. F. North, who taught until the breaking out of the Civil War, when he enlisted; George Chapin, who remained for about five years; when Mr. North was re-engaged and is at the present time principal of the school.

About the year 1856 this district was divided, and Cypress Hills was organized as *District No. 3*. During the first ten years of its existence the school was kept in the basement of the Methodist Church of that place. The present commodious two-story and basement school building was erected in 1870 under the direction of the Trustees, Richard Pickering, A. H. W. Van Sielen and George O. Sowl. The first teacher employed was a Mr. Wiggins; after a short time Mr. A. Ketchum; Mr. Green, for a few months; Mr. Rice, for about a year; John Reed, for eight months; Alexis W. Batean; Mr. Isaac Bates; Mr. Abraham Van Keuren, an experienced teacher; Mr. William Vradenburgh; Mr. Buckerman; Miss Buckerman, his daughter; Mr. B. D. Graham; Mr. LeGrand Payne, during the summer of 1869; Mr. L. Remsen Lott, until 1877; Wilbur F. Morrow; Mr. Geo. W. French; Mr. A. A. Ashmun, the present principal; with the following assistant teachers: Miss Ida Byram; Miss Minnie Byram; Miss Agnes Dickerman; Miss Miriam Simonson, and Miss Helen Persons.

The following is the present Board of Trustees: F. A. Mariner, D. S. Willmarth, E. C. Grunsword. The assessed valuation of the district is \$386,520. The number of children of school age residing in the district is 540. The school-house and site is valued at \$10,000.

In 1855 a meeting was called in East New York for the purpose of taking action in reference to establishing a school of a higher grade. Those most active in the movement were the late Professor D. H. Crutenden, then a resident of East New York; Charles R. Miller and Ditmas Jewell. It was finally resolved to organize *district No. 2*, East New York, into a *Union Free School District*—with a Board of Education consisting of nine members, viz., Messrs. C. R. Miller, Ditmas Jewell and the late John C. Middendorf. Mr. Miller was chosen the first President of the Board, and Mr. Jewell succeeded him, which position he held for many years, and was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Davis, now deceased. Mr. Joachim Birkner, a very efficient member of the Board, afterward held the position for a number of years.

The school-house on Vermont avenue proving too small to accommodate the increasing number of pupils, an act was passed authorizing the district to issue bonds in the sum of \$25,000 to purchase a site and

build a school-house. Accordingly, a site of eight lots was purchased on Butler avenue, near Atlantic; and a large and commodious two-story and basement brick structure was erected. This building soon proving insufficient for the wants of the district, a new building was erected on Henry avenue at a cost of \$15,000. In 1880 an Academic Department was organized in the new building with a roll of twenty pupils, under the direction of the State Board of Regents. Mr. A. A. Ashmun was appointed Principal. The assessed valuation of property in the district in 1882 was \$1,320,000. The number of school children, 3,198. The school-houses and sites are valued at \$34,000. The following is the present Board of Education: John K. Powell, *Pres.*; C. W. C. Dreher, William Busch, Samuel A. Livingston, Matthew Cooper, Witsen Colyer, William C. Anderson, John Stander and J. M. Lintz; John Smith, *Secretary*.

The present corps of teachers is as follows:—In the *Butler Avenue School*: Geo. A. F. North, Principal; assisted by Miss Rose M. Geraghty, Miss Hannah Dickerman, Miss Emma D. Weisbrod, Miss Mary A. Lee, Miss Kate Schuman, Miss Maggie Dickhaut, Miss Emma Hancock, Miss Mary Sinnott, Miss Mary E. Isabell, Miss Lizzie Hulse, Miss Timothia King, Miss Maria Allen. *Henry Avenue School*.—A. A. Ashmun, Principal; assisted by Miss Kate Sniffen, Miss Helen E. Stocking, Miss Belle L. Provoost, Miss Maud Anderson, Miss Anna L. Carpenter, Miss Nina Cameron, Miss Carrie Newcome. *Vermont Avenue School*.—Miss Adelia B. Murray, Principal, assisted by Miss Selina Minard, Miss Kate R. Newcome, Miss Jenny A. Ruoff. Mr. John P. Weikam, teacher of German and drawing, in all the schools of the district, which position he has held for many years. Mr. Herman Struder, a successful teacher of German and drawing, was for several years connected with the schools of this district. He was succeeded by Prof. Charles Hetterseimer.

Connected with the schools of the town are extensive *libraries*, containing not less than 2000 volumes. From one to two hundred volumes are distributed weekly to those living in the town.

HON. WM. B. RUGGLES is Superintendent of Public Instruction, Albany, New York. MR. C. WARREN HAMILTON, of New Lots, is the present School Commissioner of the Rural District, Kings County, which position he has held for the past fourteen years.

Societies.—New Lots abounds in societies. There are literary, beneficiary, singing and church societies, shooting, yachting, turning and bowling clubs.

Among the beneficiary societies are *Progressive Lodge K. of P.*, *Continental Lodge K. of P.*, *Empire Lodge No. 1* and *Friendship Lodge No. 2* of the Order of Heptasophis, or Seven Wise Men, organized 1861; *Tyrian Lodge* and *Von Mensch Lodge F.* and *A. M.*; *St. Michael's Kranken Unterstellungs Verein*, connected with *St. Michael's German R. C. Church*;

Rainbow Lodge I. of *C. F.*; *Bumber Guard*; *Eintrecht Lodge*, organized 18th of October, 1868; *Herman's Sons*; *Louis M. Hamilton Post G. A. R.*; *Wilhelm Tell Lodge*; *K. of H.*; *Christine Frauen Lodge*, *Order Germania*; *Knights and Ladies of Honor Lodge*, *Eastern Star Lodge*; *Saxonia Lodge*, organized August, 1870, *Order Germania*; *Evergreen Section, Order of Heptasophis*; *Ivy Division, Sons of Temperance*; *Court Littlejohn, Forresters*; *Sons of St. George*; and the *Mutual Sick Aid Benefit Society*. All of these organizations give their members an allotted sum each week they are ill, and see that the members are properly interred after death. Some of them pay benefits to widows. There is also a co-operative building society, which is somewhat of a social nature.

Among the *LITERARY* and *SOCIAL* societies are the *Shamrock Literary Association*; the *Young Men's Catholic Lyceum Association*; the *Musical and Literary Coterie*, *Oxford Social*, and the *Irving Social*. The singing societies are the *Concordia*, *Harmonie*, *Concordia Gemischter Chor*, and the *Frochinin*. The bowling clubs are the *Empire*, *Ours*, *Standard*, *United*, *Nameless*, *Athletics*, *Leisure Hour*, *Pastimes*, *Manhattan*, *East New York*, the *Lady Washington* and the *Lexingtons*, the latter two being ladies' clubs.

The yachting clubs are the *New Lots Yacht Club*, Commodore William Busch, and the *Fleetwood Yacht Club*, Commodore P. H. Reid, Jr.

The sportsmen's club is the *Glenmore Rod and Gun Club*, of Long Island; president, Geo. U. Forbell.

The principal church societies are the *Ours*, connected with the Episcopal Church, which is a social organization of young people who contribute a large amount annually for the support of their church; the *Social Union* and the *Mite Society of the Baptist Church* and several aid societies connected with other churches.

The *CONCORDIA SINGING SOCIETY* is the oldest German society in the town. It was first organized in 1855, under the name of the *Harmonia Singing Society*, but was re-organized on the 28th of August, 1859, as the *Concordias*. The first meeting was held at the house of Mr. Charles Heitkamp, when Mr. Francis Miller was chosen president and Prof. Hermann Kiesling as leader. Its membership comprises the most prominent and wealthy German citizens, and the Concordias ranks first among the societies of the town. Masquerades, concerts and pic-nics are annually given by the society, which are always of the highest order and well attended, adding largely to the receipts of the treasurer. The funds, however, are not entirely used for the benefit of the members. Large sums are annually donated to charitable institutions. In 1871, the society sent over \$200, for the relief of the sufferers from the Chicago fire.

Prof. Kiesling continued as leader of the society until his death in 1866, when the services of Prof. August

Bishoff were seuered, to whose able leadership the success of the society is largely due. As an offshoot to this society is the "Concordia Gemischter Chor." This society is in a very flourishing condition, numbering about 90 members. Meetings are held weekly at the large hall of Emil Schillien on Atlantic avenue. The following are the officers: *President*, Henry Thiele; *Vice President*, Frederick Brohmer; *Secretary*, William Lutz; *Treasurer*, Emil Schillien.

PROGRESSIVE LODGE, No. 21, K. of P.—one of the oldest lodges of the order in this State, was first instituted at Williamsburgh, Kings County, Oct. 11, 1870. After several years of prosperity, adverse circumstances set in, and finally, in 1878, its charter was surrendered. For two years every effort was made to resuscitate the lodge, but without avail, and its friends gave up in despair. At last, however, through the indefatigable energy and perseverance of Deputy Grand Chancellor W. H. Bowlsby, M.D., he having previously purchased the paraphernalia of the lodge on his own account, an arrangement was effected by which the original charter was reclaimed and the place of meeting changed to East New York, where it was reinstated on the 7th day of March, 1881, by Grand Chancellor O. M. Shedd, assisted by D. D. G. C. Bowlsby, with the following list of officers: *P. C.*, Henry Martin; *C. C.*, William H. Bowlsby, M.D.; *V. C.*, Matthew Cooper; *P.*, Rev. B. F. Reeve; *M. of E.*, Daniel Sanders; *M. of F.*, Joseph Woolison; *K. of R. S.*, A. A. Phillips; *M. A.*, Ed. H. Wood; *I. G.*, Henry Thule; *O. G.*, James Mosette; *Physician*, W. H. Bowlsby, M.D. The wisdom and foresight of this arrangement was demonstrated by the subsequent prosperity and growth of the lodge, which now numbers 150 members, representing all of the professions and the best citizens of the town. The following is a list of the present officers: A. A. Phillips, Jr., *P. C.*; Henry Martin, *C. C.*; William Stoothoff, *V. C.*; Joseph I. Elsegood, D. D., *Prelate*; James Moore, *K. of R. S.*; Daniel Sanders, *M. of E.*; R. Dillman, *M. of F.*; C. Bolton, *M. A.*; William H. North, *I. G.*; B. C. Hastings, *O. G.*; *Trustees*: M. A. Brown, A. Snelling and Geo. R. Provost; Dr. Francis Miller, *Medical Examiner*. This lodge meets weekly.

CONTINENTAL LODGE, No. 85, K. of P., was organized May 31, 1872, with the following charter members: William B. Howard, *C. C.*; Geo. H. Paterson, *V. C.*; Matthew Cooper, *Prelate*; E. R. Groves, *K. of R. and S.*; John Orsborn, *M. of F.*; Louis J. Willis, *M. of E.*; John E. Graring, *M. at A.*; Alex. R. Paterson, *I. G.*; Peter G. Kennedy, *O. G.* This lodge is in a very flourishing condition, numbering about 140 members. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening. The present officers are as follows: *P. C.*, Geo. E. Johnson; *C. C.*, Ed J. Burrows; *V. C.*, John E. Grinsfield; *P.*, John W. Simpson; *M. of F.*, William Searsby; *M. of E.*, Jacob C. Bennett; *K. of R. and S.*, Elijah S. Searby;

M. at A., William H. Johnson; *I. G.*, David Southerland; *O. C.*, Benjamin Waters.

TYRIAN LODGE, No. 618, F. AND A. M., was instituted at East New York, June 13, 1867, with the following charter members: William Magee, Joseph Welsh, Michael Murphy, Herman Martens, Thad. L. Lewis, Francis Sanzer, Samuel W. Palmer, Louis Altenbrand, Geo. Loomis, W. E. McPherson, Joseph Altenbrand, Joseph Baker, Joseph Kaufman, and Fred D. Hart. *Past Masters*: William Magee, 1866, Under Dispensation; Joseph Welsh, 1867; H. M. Smith, 1868; Geo. W. Palmer, 1869; Charles F. Corby, 1870-71-72; Geo. W. Palmer, 1873-74; C. H. Chamberlain, 1875; John McGeehan, 1876; Geo. W. Palmer, 1877; Chas. H. Chamberlain, 1878; H. M. Smith, 1879; E. N. Richards, 1880-81; Fred W. Hancock, 1882-83. The lodge at present numbers about 90 members.

VON MENSCH LODGE, No. 765, F. AND A. M., was instituted at East New York, on the 11th of November, 1875. It is an offshoot of Tyrian Lodge and comprises among its members some of the most prominent and worthy German citizens of the town. The following are the charter members: Dr. Francis Miller; Peter Fisher; Nicholas Hoffmann; George Pflug; Bernard Braun; Bernhard Midas; Dr. C. A. Beckert; George Diseter; John C. Kehrweider; John Haubt; G. W. Ehrhardt; Morris Reichmann; J. Banzer; Jacob Kiendl; Henry Bienhauer; Daniel Sutter; William Jensen; Henry Haubt; Morris Hamburger. The charter was delivered on the 21st of June, 1876.

Past Masters: Dr. Francis Miller, 1875, Under Dispensation; Gustave Dettloff, 1877; Gustave Ehrhardt, 1879; Jacob Kiendl, 1881. Gustave Dettloff is the present Master, and much of the success of the lodge is due to the untiring energy and zeal of this brother. The other officers of the lodge are as follows: *S. W.*, Ernest Schnoppe; *J. W.*, August Klaus; *Secretary*, John C. Kehrweider; *Treasurer*, Peter Fischer; *S. D.*, Fred A. Schwichs; *J. D.*, William Jensen; *Tyler*, I. O. Hatfield.

The lodge numbers about forty members. Meets twice a week at the Masonic Hall, corner of Atlantic and Butler avenues, East New York.

RAINBOW LODGE, No. 409, U. O. S. B., installed July 23d, 1874, at Bernet's Hotel. The first officers were: John Broecker, *Noble G.*; Philip Midas, *Vice G.*; Ernest Fuchs, *Sec.*; Louis Allecke, *Fin. Sec.*; Anton Kirschner, *Treas.*; Charles Broecker, *Conductor*. The Mother Lodge is "Socrates," No. 223, of Williamsburg, which presented to the new lodge a cheque for \$403.25 as a starter. The present *Noble Grand* is Louis Buek. Meetings are held weekly at Ferchand's Hall, corner Liberty and Wyckoff avenues.

WARTBURG HOME FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM was organized in 1876, under the direction and control of the different German Lutheran Dominations of the cities of New York and Brooklyn, is largely maintained

by subscriptions from these denominations. Its object is, as its name implies, to furnish a home for the aged and infirm. Extensive brick buildings have just been completed on Fulton avenue, corner of Sheffield, East New York. The grounds are extensively laid out and beautifully embellished and everything is done to meet the wants and comfort of the inmates of the Home. There are at present forty inmates, while the buildings have ample accommodation for sixty. The following is a list of the officers: *Pres.*, William Hauff; *V. Pres.*, Joseph Birkner; *Treas.*, E. C. Korner; *Sec.*, Rev. E. Bohm.

Connected with the Home is a hospital, was established in 1881, under the name of the *Lutheran Hospital Association of New York City and vicinity*, supported by subscriptions from the membership. The buildings are ample, and are pleasantly situated on East New York avenue, corner of Johnson. The grounds are beautifully laid out and planted with trees and shrubbery. The following is a list of officers: *Pres.*, Jacob Morsh; *V. Pres.*, J. Titjen; *Treas.*, William Dick; *Sec.*, Rev. E. Bohm.

Both institutions are under the medical supervision of Albert Furgang, M.D., of East New York.

Post Office.—In 1837 a post office was established in the village of East New York. It was located in a country variety store, on the Jamaica Plank Road, near the present site of the dry-goods establishment of Mr. Adolph Bookman. This store was kept by Edwin M. Strong, appointed the first postmaster. An old shoe-box, carefully partitioned off, served as a receptacle for letters, which did not exceed half a dozen per day. Mr. Strong retained the place for many years. He was succeeded by Mr. Philip H. Reid. As the business of the office had considerably increased, Mr. Reid removed the office to his grocery store, at the corner of Fulton and Sheffield avenues, East New York, where ample accommodation was provided. After nine years of faithful service, Mr. Reid was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Wagoner, who removed the office to the corner of Liberty and Van Siclen avenues, after which it was located on the corner of Atlantic and New Jersey avenues. Mr. Wagoner held the office about four years; when Mr. Reid was again appointed, and the office removed to the corner of Atlantic and Alabama avenues. In 1869, Mr. Miles A. Brown, the present incumbent, was appointed. During Mr. Brown's term of office, many needed improvements have been

made. Letter-boxes have been located in various sections of the town, and a daily delivery of mail matter by a carrier, established.

In 1879, a neat and substantial two-story brick building was erected, on Pennsylvania avenue, by Geo. D. Pitkin, Esq., a large property owner in the town, to be used as a post office, and appropriately fitted up for the purpose.

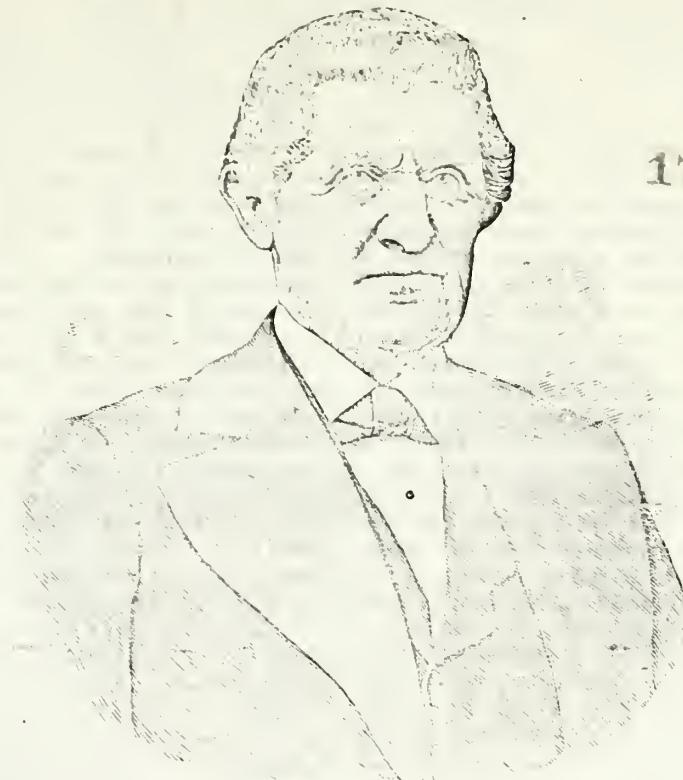
There are at present four arrivals and four departures of the mail each day. About twelve hundred letters are daily received at the office and about the same number sent out.

The East New York Savings Bank, of New Lots, L. I., northwest corner of Atlantic and New Jersey avenues, was incorporated by the Act of Legislature passed May 8th, 1868, and commenced business May 1st, 1869, with the following officers: Gilliam Schenck, *President*; Williamson Rapalje, *Vice President*; Louis Altenbrand, *2d Vice President*; Charles J. Hobe, *Treasurer and Secretary*; John C. Schenck, *Attorney & Counsel*. *Trustees*: Stephen L. Vandeveer, Ditmas Jewell, Williamson Rapalje, Isaac C. Schenck, Christopher I. Lott, John J. Sackmann, Henry L. Wyckoff, John S. Andrews, Frederick Middendorf, Gilliam Schenck, Philip H. Reid, Adolph Bookmann, Charles J. Hobe, Peter J. Bergen, C. Francis Colyer, William Kramer, James McGuire, John C. Schenck, Horace A. Miller, Williamson Rapalje, Jr., Louis Altenbrand, Martin Bennett, Jr., Joseph Schlnechtner, J. Wyekoff Van Siclen, C. Washington Colyer, Whitsom Colyer, Henry Ringshauser.

Its present officers are: Isaac C. Schenck, *Pres.*; Gustave Dittloff, *Vice Pres.*; Louis Altenbrand, *2d Vice Pres.*; Charles J. Hobe, *Treas.* and *Sec.*; John C. Schenck, *Attorney and Counsel*. The law has been changed so that thirteen trustees only are required, who are as follows; Williamson Rapalje, John S. Andrews, Peter G. Bergen, Christian Middendorf, Isaac C. Schenck, Charles J. Hobe, John C. Schenck, Louis Altenbrand, Martin Bennett, Herman Brome, C. Francis Colyer, C. Washington Colyer, Henry Ringshauser.

The business of this bank has been so judiciously managed, that its ratio of surplus to deposits compares favorably with any in the State. Its officers point with satisfaction and pride to the following figures.

Amount of Deposits, Sept. 1st, 1883, \$306,000. Surplus, \$33,000.



Williamson Rapalje

WILLIAMSON RAPALJE.—The numerous and reputable family of Rapalje is descended from that of de Rapalje, which, as early as the eighteenth century, possessed large estates in Bretagne, and ranked among the *arriere-ban* of the French nobility. Some of its members were distinguished as military leaders in the crusades, others for political eminence and professional talents; but, in the religious wars of the sixteenth century, being known as Protestants, they became the victims of Papal animosity and were expelled from France. Joris Jansen de Rapalje, one of this proscribed Huguenot race from Rochelle in France, was the common ancestor of all the American families of this name. He came to this country with other colonists in 1623, in the Unity, a ship of the West India company, and settled at Fort Orange, now Albany, where he remained three years. In 1626 he removed to New Amsterdam and resided there till after the birth of his youngest child. On June 16, 1637, he bought from the Indians a tract of land computed at 335 acres, called Rennegaconck, now included within the town of Brooklyn, a part of which purchase was the present site of the U. S. Marine Hospital. Here Joris Rapalje finally located and spent the remainder of his life. He was a leading citizen, acted a prominent part in the public affairs of the colony, and served in the magistracy of Brooklyn. He died soon after the close of the Dutch administration, his widow, Catalyntie, surviving him many years. *Daniel*, his youngest child, was born in the city of New York, Dec. 29, 1650,

and May 27, 1674, married Sarah, daughter of Abraham Klock. He was a man of high respectability and an elder of the Brooklyn church. He died Dec. 26, 1725, and his widow Feb. 28, 1731. Their children were Joris Daniel, Catharine, Annetie, Mary and Sarah. *Daniel* was born March 25, 1691, and married Oct. 17, 1711, Aletie, daughter of Johannes Cornell, at which time he lived in Brooklyn; but he afterwards removed to Newtown, where he died March 19, 1737, his wife having died May 20, 1736. They had ten (10) children, of whom *Daniel*, the eldest son, bought the paternal farm in 1745, and became a leading man and a magistrate of Newtown. *Johannes*, the second son, was the father of Major *Daniel Rapalje*, who was born in 1748, and married Agnes, daughter of Johannus Bergen, and became a farmer at New Lots. About this time, by a Dutch perversion, the *i* in the final syllable of Rapalje was changed to *j*, which is still adhered to. On the opening of the Revolution he espoused the whig cause, served as a lieutenant in the Kings county troop of horse, and was in exile during the war. He died at New Lots in 1796. His children were *John*, *Daniel*, *Simon* and *Michael*. *John* married *Charity*, daughter of Abram Van Sickelen, and had issue, *Cornelia*, wife of *Stephen I. Lott*, and *Daniel I.* *Simon Rapalje* married *Helen*, daughter of *Nicholas Williamson*. Their children were *Williamson*, the subject of this sketch, now occupying the old homestead of Major *Daniel Rapalje* on the New Lots road; *Daniel*, who died when a young man; and *Eliza*, wife

of Walter Brown of Flushing. Simon Rapalje was a carpenter by trade, and owned a farm of about 60 acres. He brought his son Williamson up as a farmer, giving him, in addition to the common school, the advantages of the celebrated Erasmus Hall Academy at Flatbush, at the time when Mr. Craig was principal. When young, Williamson exhibited quite a taste and talent in drawing, with a special liking for faces and portraits. At the age of 20 he married Ann, daughter of John Vanderveer, April 10, 1823. Their children were: Simon, born Feb. 1, 1824, died May 9, 1827; Margaret Ann, born Sept. 10, 1825, still living with her father; John, born March 16, , died June 14, 1828; Helen, born May 27, 1829, died May 16, 1869; Simon, born Aug. 5, 1831; John Vanderveer, born April 4, 1833, died Oct. 9, 1833; Williamson, born Sept. 8, 1834; Daniel, born April 20, 1836; Eida Vanderveer, born Sept. 20, 1838, died Nov. 16, 1842; Eliza, born Jan. 26, 1841; Henry Lott, born Aug. 15, 1843; Eida Vanderveer, born June 11, 1846, died July 31, 1852. *Williamson Rapalje, Jr.*, married Elizabeth Meserole Schenck, daughter of Isaac C. Schenck, Oct. 12, 1859. They have had one child, Catharine Ann, who was born Feb. 8, 1864, and died July 26, 1866. *Eliza Rapalje* married James, son of John Williamson, of Flatland, March 25, 1863. Their children were James Rapalje, born Dec. 18, 1869; Maria, born June 16, 1875. Their father was born April 2, 1837, and died Dec. 4, 1875. Mrs. Williamson and her two children are now living with her father on the old homestead. *Simon Rapalje* married Sarah Emmons Schenck, daughter of Gilliam Schenck, Oct. 19, 1865. *Henry Lott Rapalje* married Sarah E., daughter of Henry Eldert, Oct. 13, 1869. Their children: Annie, born Nov. 8, 1870; Henry Williamson, born March 5, 1873; Daniel Lott, born Feb. 13, 1876; Cornelia, born Feb. 25, 1879.

Daniel Rapalje and Alice, daughter of Rev. Alvin Ostrom, were married June 19, 1878. Their children have been born in Amoy, China—Ernest Harold, born April 27, 1879, and Herbert DeWitt, born Aug. 6, 1880. In early life Daniel displayed a love for study and an aversion to becoming

a farmer. His father therefore, with the excellent judgment that has characterized all his acts through life, told him to make his own choice of a life pursuit. Accordingly he chose a classical education and went to Rutgers college, at which he graduated. It is interesting here to notice the cropping out of the religious element in this family of Huguenot descent. While other young graduates were electing to be lawyers, physicians and engineers, Daniel put these worldly allurements all behind him, and chose the laborious self-denying life of a missionary. After his college course, he entered the Theological department at Rutgers, graduating from that also. Then offering his services to the Foreign Missionary Society, he was sent to Amoy, China, where he has labored most successfully for the past twenty years. During this time he has made two visits to his old home, on the latter of which he was married. His wife is the daughter of an old college friend, who also went to China as a missionary, where she was born, so she is working in and for her native land.

Ann Vanderveer, wife of Williamson Rapalje, was born November 11, 1803, and died January 25, 1868. Mr. Rapalje was born June 4, 1803, and still enjoys very fair bodily health, and the full possession of his mental gifts. His life has been active, useful, and successful. Good sense, a vigorous understanding and a most practical executive ability, joined with and controlled by a constant sense of right and justice, have been his controlling characteristics. In the exercise of these his townsmen have insisted on his serving as assessor for many terms in years gone by. In the Reformed Church, of New Lots, he has always been a leader, and for a long term an elder, which place he still fills. Politically, Mr. Rapalje has always been a Democrat. His sons have succeeded him as farmers, in which calling they are famed as being the largest and most successful in the town. They have built large and elegant houses on the old homestead, adding to the many attractions on the old New Lots road. Such families as the one of which this is an imperfect record, are the safe-guards of any country of which they are citizens.

STEPHEN LOTT VANDERVEER lives on the old farm, which has been the homestead of his ancestors for several generations. His house, originally built by his grandfather, and which he has enlarged to its present spacious proportions and fine appearance, stands in New Lots, near the lines which divide that town from Flatbush and Flatlands. His farm of 109 acres was originally well wooded, but has for many years been devoted to market gardening, familiarly called "trucking." He was born Feb. 22, 1826, and married Jane Alletta Keuwenhoven Feb. 20, 1850. Their children have been five boys and two girls. For several years his sons have managed the farm, his own industry and enterprise having resulted in a handsome competence, which he uses and enjoys much more sensibly than too many farmers who find no pleasure except continued digging in the old rut. He enjoys fishing and sailing, in proof whereof he owns a yacht, to whose soothing embrace he regularly devotes during the sailing season whole days of solid comfort. Although never a politician or an office holder, Mr. Vanderveer has always acted with the republican party. In religious matters he has been a consistent and representative member of the Reformed church of New Lots, serving for the past 20 years as its treasurer. In his school-boy days he improved the advantages of his district school and of several terms at the Jamaica academy, when the distinguished instructor, John

W. Brinkerhoff, was at its head. Mr. Vanderveer is a thick set, solidly built man of phlegmatic temperament, a picture of contentment and good health. He has a decided taste for antique relics in furniture and art, specimens of which adorn his attractive home. His wife is also active and well preserved in body and mind, and to all appearances they have many years before them in which to enjoy and to benefit their family and their friends.

The family genealogy is as follows: Cornelis Janse Vanderveer, or "from the ferry," farmer, emigrated to this country from Alckmaer or Alkmaer, a province in North Holland, in the Netherlands, in the ship *Otter*, in Feb., 1659. Settled in Flatbush. Feb. 1677-8 he purchased of Jan Janz, a farm. He married Tryntje Gillis De Mandeville, and had children. Cornelius, Neeltje, Maria, Hendrick, Jan, Dominicus and Michiel.

Jan Vanderveer married Femetje, daughter of Micheal Hanson Bergen, January 6, 1695. Had issue: Katrina, bap. March 29, 1696; Femetje, married Jacob Sebering, and Jan, born July 7, 1706, died Oct. 31, 1779, who married Cornelia Lott, April 29, 1732, born April 20, 1714, died Oct. 31, 1789. Had issue: Katrina, born Dec. 3, 1733, died young; Femmetje, born April 4, 1737, died Feb. 26, 1808; Katrina, born Jan. 22, 1740, died April 3, 1829; Jan, born Oct. 25, 1745, died Dec. 7, 1808, married Gretje Eldert, May 25, 1765.



Stephen L Vanderveer

born Aug. 13, 1747, died March 13, 1825. Had issues: John, born May 19, 1766, died May 6, 1817, married Ann Lott, Aug. 11, 1791, born March 4, 1798, died Feb. 6, 1818; Johannes, born Nov. 22, 1768, died March 30, 1833 (single); Femmete, born Nov. 27, 1770; Cornelia, born April 5, 1775, died April 21, 1829, married Abraham Duryea; Treyntje, born May 6, 1779, died April 3, 1829 (single); Sara, born Feb. 11, 1782, died May 5, 1860, married Johannes Eldert. Children of John and Anne Vanderveer: John, born Aug. 11, 1792, died March 4, 1861, married Eida Suydain, April 23, 1818, born June 28, 1795, died Feb. 5, 1873; Stephen, born June 20, 1796, died Oct. 13, 1799; Ann Vanderveer, born Nov. 11, 1803, married Williamson Rapalje, April 10, 1823; have children living Jan., 1881—Margaret Ann, Simon, Williamson, Henry L., Eliza, and Daniel, now a missionary. Children of John and Eida Vanderveer: John J., born March 24, 1819, died Nov. 30, 1837, married Eliza E. Dubois, April 16, 1867, had

one son, John Henry, born June 29, 1869; Henry, born Nov. 25, 1821, died Nov. 4, 1857 (single); Ann, born June 10, 1824, married Abraham Vanderveer, April 23, 1845, had issue: John A., born April 19, 1849, Maria Ann, Ida Suydam and Charles; Stephen L., born Feb. 22, 1826, married Jane A. Kouwenhoven, Feb. 20, 1850, born Oct. 13, 1825, had issue: Eida Ann, born Dec. 23, 1850, married George W. Ryerson, Nov. 20, 1872, born May 27, 1849, have issues; Ella Jane, born March 20, 1874, and John Henry, born July 20, 1877; John K., born Nov. 18, 1852, married Julia R. Colyer, Oct. 10, 1877, have one daughter, Marietta Colyer, born Feb. 24, 1879; Henry S., born Nov. 25, 1854, married Amy R. Bogart, May 24, 1876; Susan A., born Nov. 25, 1854, died Sept. 6, 1855; Peter Luke, born Feb. 18, 1856, married Marietta Lott, Oct. 29, 1879; James, born Sept. 15, 1858, married Cornelia A. Van Siclen, Dec. 6, 1882, born Sept. 28, 1858; Stephen Lott, born Sept. 30, 1861, died Nov. 11, 1861; Mary E., born Sept. 30, 1861



Charles B. Vanderveer

CHARLES B. VANDERVEER.—The Vanderveer family on Long Island sprang from Cornelis Janse (Van der Veer)—meaning “from the ferry,” who emigrated, in 1659, from Alkmaar, in North Holland, and married Tryntje Gillis de Mandeville. He settled in Flatbush, of which town he was a magistrate in 1678 and 1680. His autograph is given on page 217 of Hist. of Kings Co. His second son, Dominicus, baptized November 16, 1679, at Flatbush, was sheriff of Kings County in 1736, and married Elizabeth Luqueer. The Van der Veers, at an early day, acquired a fine tract of land in what is now the town of New Lots, which estate is still in the possession of their descendants. Charles B. Vanderveer was of the sixth generation who have owned and occupied the property, and was born there in 1796. His father's name was also Dominicus. Mr. Vanderveer's boyhood was passed at a time when educational advantages were limited, but he enjoyed the best then obtainable in the common schools, and afterwards added largely to his stock of knowledge by read-

ing. At about the age of twenty-one he married Miss Maria Van Sicklen, the daughter of a neighboring farmer. They reared a family of eight children, of whom all except two are living.

Though Mr. Vanderveer took no active part in politics, he was a man of strong political convictions; in early days a Whig, and afterwards a Republican. He was connected for many years with the Dutch Reformed Church at New Lots. He devoted his time to the care of his large farm, on which he cleared up and improved many acres; and to the mill which was built on the estate about 1750. In 1839, he built the substantial mansion on the place, which is now occupied by his son. His wife died in 1875 and he survived her but three years, passing away in 1878, at the ripe age of eighty-two. He was known and esteemed as a quiet, law-abiding citizen: a man of the strictest integrity, who, by industry, prudence and uprightness, accumulated wealth, and kept through a long life the highest esteem of his towns-men.



Francis Miller, M. D.

FRANCIS MILLER, M.D., one of the oldest practitioners in New York and Kings County, occupies a charming residence on Ridgewood Heights, the property fronting on Jamaica avenue, opposite Van Siclen avenue, East New York.

He was born of poor parents, in Alzey, a small city in Rheinhessen, Germany, on the 25th of October, 1817. He began his education at the public school in his native city, where he made such advancement that the preceptor, who is still living, appointed him instructor of the second class of his scholars.

After having acquired all the instruction obtainable at this school, he was admitted, in May, 1838, to the University in Heidleberg, Baden, at which institution he commenced the study of medicine, under the tuition of the great professors of that time, Gmelin, Puchelt, Tidemann, Bischoff, Chelius, Naegele, and others, which names are well known to every intelligent physician in Europe and America.

In the year 1841, he entered the University of his native State at Giessen, in the Grand Duchy of Hesse. Here he attended the lectures of the eminent Liebig, Wernher, Balser and others, and in September, 1842, passed his examination and received his diploma as Doctor of Medicine, Chirurgery, and Obstetrics.

He was thereupon offered a position in the same University as Assistant Prosector, which he declined, owing to the fact that he had two brothers and a sister living in New York, who advised him to come to America, and to bring with him his father, mother and two younger brothers, which he did, and arrived in New York on the 30th of October, 1842, after a passage of twenty days from Havre.

After his arrival in New York, he soon obtained a large practice, became a member of the Medical Society of the

State of New York, of the Medical Society of the City of New York, and also of the Academy of Medicine of New York.

He was one of the founders of the Society of German Physicians of the City of New York, and was at one time its Secretary, and later on its President.

He was surgeon of the 5th Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., for seven years, and as a physician of the German Society for the Poor in New York, he reported in one year alone over two hundred cases, which he attended free of charge.

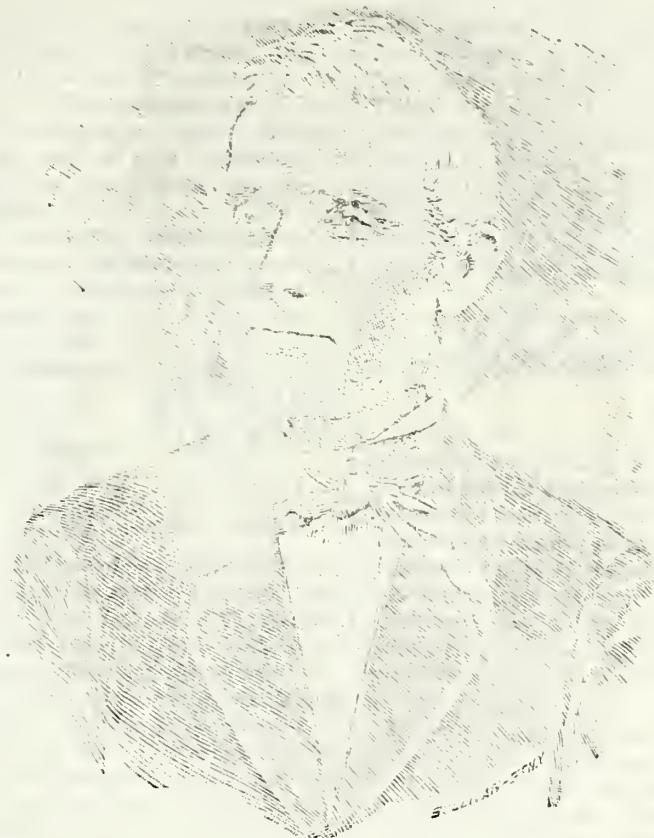
He was well acquainted and frequently in company with the greatest physicians in New York, as Doctors Mott, Francis, Van Buren, Anderson, Wood, Parker, Detmold, Gilman, Taylor, Bedford, etc.

He took an active part in school matters, and served as School Trustee for six years in the 10th Ward in New York, and also for three years in East New York.

Finally, his great practice, by day and night for twenty-two years, began seriously to affect his health, and upon consulting with his colleagues, it was deemed necessary to leave the city and remove to the country, in order to regain his strength.

After visiting a great number of places within a radius of thirty miles from New York, he at last decided to purchase the land at East New York, now occupied by him, and to erect a dwelling thereon. This house is situated on the top of a hill, overlooking the town of New Lots, and commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country, as well as of Jamaica Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean, south of Rockaway.

He was married in 1845, to a Miss Frost, of New York, who is still living, and by whom he has three children, two sons and one daughter. The daughter died in childhood, but the sons are alive and married.



Isaac C. Schenck

ISAAC C. SCHENCK.—No one familiar with Kings and adjoining counties need be told that, to a marked degree, men and women bearing the name of Schenck have worthily commanded the respect and confidence of their contemporaries. At each period, from the earlier to the present settlement of the Western part of Long Island, some member of this family has been called to assume a leading position in the management of public affairs. The genealogy of this family has been traced back to the remote period when the illustrious Charlemagne was Emperor of Germany and France, at which period Edgar de Schenken, in the year 798, filled the position of Imperial Seneschal to this great ruler.

Johannes Schenck, the progenitor of the Bushwick, Long Island, branch of the family, was born in Holland, probably the sub-district of Kessel, Sept. 19, 1656. His father was a judge of the province, which office was also held by his grandfather, his great and his great-great grandfathers. He was married in Holland and emigrated to America in 1683, landing in New York, where he remained two years. From there he went to Ulster County for five years, and then to the town of Flatbush, where he is recorded as town-clerk from 1691 to 1694, and again from 1700 to 1712.

We present herewith fac-similes of his signature, as written

Johannes Schenck
— 1694 —

Johannes Schenck
1603

by him both in Dutch and English. He used, at various periods of his career, three different seals, copies of two of which



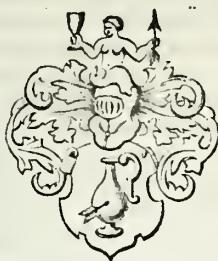
NO. 1.



NO. 2.

JOHANNES SCHENCK'S PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL SEALS.

we also present. No. 1 is that which he used most frequently in the earlier years of his American residence; No. 2 is that which he used during the later period of his term of office as Town Clerk.



SCHENCK (of Schencken)
FAMILY ARMS.

Both these designs were, undoubtedly, taken by him from the coat of arms of the family to which he belonged. This tankard-crest is also found on an ancient spoon belonging to him and now in possession of one of his descendants, residing in Brooklyn.

The heraldic idea intended to be conveyed by the tankard is that of hospitality; in fact, the meaning of the word Schenck, or Schenken, is butler.

During the year 1712, he left the town of Flatbush and bought the mill-property in Bushwick, which he made his final home. In the year 1719, he was supervisor of Bushwick. He died April 10, 1729. His son, Peter, who died in 1736, was the father of Teunis, born Feb. 9, 1723, who also had a son Teunis, born Feb. 15, 1767. This latter was married in 1794 to Gertrude, daughter of Isaac Cornell, became Judge Teunis Schenck, and died Dec. 29, 1842. Their children were: John, born, Oct. 18, 1795; Catharine, born July 5, 1797, married Nov. 12, 1816, John Remsen, of Flatlands Neck, died 1863; Ann, born Sept. 16, 1799, married Nov. 24, 1818, Henry S. Ditmas, of Flatbush; Isaac Cornell, born January 17, 1802, who is the subject of this sketch. Peter, born Dec. 4, 1803, died April 3, 1866, single; Maria, born Aug. 19, 1805, died Feb. 15, 1875, married Oct. 19, 1824, John Meserole, of Greenpoint, who died 1843; Aletta Jane, born Jan. 4, 1808, died Aug. 11, 1831, married Laurence, of Newtown; Eliza, born July 9, 1810; Gilliam, born Jan. 16, 1813; Cornelius, born May 27, 1818, died Aug. 11, 1821.

Gilliam Schenck married, Oct. 14, 1840, Ann Maria Eldert. Issue: Gertrude C., born Aug. 12, 1841, married Feb. 22, 1860; Albert H. W. Van Sicklen; Sarah E., born March 17, 1843, married Oct. 19, 1865, Simon Rapalje.

Isaac C. Schenck married Catharine, daughter of Peter Meserole. Their children have been: John C., born Feb. 1837; Elizabeth M., born Aug. 24, 1838, married Oct. 12, 1859, Williamson Rapalje; Walter, born Sept. 23, 1840, died Sept. 11, 1841; Catharine Ann, born June 20, 1842, died Aug. 21, 1869, single; Aletta Jane, born Oct. 3, 1844, died March 3, 1847; Maria M., born Feb. 3, 1847, died July 8, 1847; Peter M., born May 15, 1859, died Nov. 18, 1861; Cornelius, born Nov. 11, 1851; Sarah E., born March 17, 1854, married John Johnson Bergen, of Jamaica.

The record of the Schencks, during the revolutionary war, exhibits patriotic devotion, attested by active personal service. John H. Schenck, of New Jersey, raised a regiment by his own exertions and served with it through the war. John Schenck, of Dutchess County, was a captain in Col. Swarthout's regiment of minutemen, commission issued Oct. 17, 1775, and signed by Nathaniel Woodhull, President of Provisional Congress. Henry Schenck was major in the same regiment, Martin and Nicholas Schenck were captains in other regiments, and Abraham was a lieutenant. Among the several captains by the name of John Schenck there was one whose loyalty and devotion touched the high-water mark. Almost at the beginning of the war he was asked how much gold would secure his services for the royal side. His answer

was worthy of any man in any age. "The whole of Europe cannot buy me; give me liberty." Later on a reward was offered by the British of "50 guineas for the head of Capt. Schenck, dead or alive."

In civil duties we find Abraham H. Schenck, of Dutchess county, serving in the State Assembly at Albany two terms; John Schenck, of Queens county, three terms; Peter A. Schenck, of New York county, three terms, and Judge Teunis Schenck, of Kings county, three terms. Judge Abraham Schenck, of Kings, represented his county in the Colonial Legislature from 1759 to 1768. In addition to these the State Senate has contained as members, Abraham of Dutchess county, John of Washington county, and John Schenck, Jr., of Queens county. Ancient deeds in the possession of Isaac C. Schenck, show that Johannes and Peter,



SILVER MARKS.

Johannes Schenck Jr.

1724

the two sons of the first Johannes, were purchasers of large tracts of land in Bushwick and Newtown, at an early day. Among the conveyances to Peter is that of the land which to this day remains as the family burying ground of the Bushwick family of Schenck. In 184— Isaac C. Schenck was elected superintendent of the poor for Kings county, discharging the duties of that difficult office in the most satisfactory manner. All purchases were economically made in the interests of the tax payers, and no scandal ever hung over his accounts.

In church and school matters Mr. Schenck has always held a laboring oar. When the New Lots Reformed church was built in 1824 he was one of the most active and efficient members and workers. The first building committee was Johannes Vanderveer, John Williamson, Simon Rapalje, Abram Van Sicklen, Christian Duryea, John Blake and Joseph Smith. The timber was cut in the woods of the farmers of the congregation, who not only gave it, but cut, hewed and carted it. A part of it had to be sawed, and they dug a ditch for a pit, over which the logs were placed and sawed by hand, as saw mills were few and far away in those days. Even the painting was done by the parishioners, Mr. Schenck being one of those who painted the fence. The building cost about \$35 and was good for the times. The first minister was Rev. Mr. Crookshank.

In 1808 a school house was built in Mr. Schenck's district, the school being for a time kept in Mr. Blake's barn. This barn is now owned by Mr. Hopkins. The school house built at that time has since been moved back, but is still used. About the year 1840 John Lohman, Jacob H. Sackman and Mr. Schenck thought best to have the school district divided. Accordingly Mr. Schenck went to Flatbush and saw Dr. John H. Zabriskie, town superintendent, who came and looked the matter over and erected the new district asked. A public meeting was held in the old Half Way House, where the Fulton avenue stables now are, at which Isaac C. Schenck, William Stoothoff and David Storms were elected trustees. A contract to build a school house was made with Henry S. Eldert, which was located near the Reformed church, where it still is, plus the additions that have been made to it. A good share of the timber used in the frame of the original building was cut on Mr. Schenck's farm and hauled by his man.

Mr. James Clegg was the first teacher. He also represented the town of New Lots as Supervisor during the years 1853-'54-'55 and '57. His brother, Gilliam Schenck,

succeeded him in the same office from 1858 to 1874, inclusive, serving the long term of 17 consecutive years. In 1879 he was appointed treasurer of Kings county to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Samuel S. Powell, and at the next election he was elected for the succeeding term. During the four years of his administration of the financial affairs of this county with all its vast interests, the records show exact balances of receipts and disbursements, every dollar properly applied and accounted for. A noted characteristic of the Schencks from the earliest period has been that in public and in private duties they have always proved equal to the place and the occasion. This explains their long terms of service by the repeated choice of their fellow citizens. Cool, capable judgment, and honest, efficient administration, have been their strong points. John C. Schenck, his eldest son, after a careful and thorough education in the schools, followed by adequate preliminary reading of the great authorities, adopted the legal profession and was duly admitted to the bar. His professional abilities and success

are sufficiently attested by the fact that he is and has been, since its organization, the attorney for the East New York Savings Bank. The first existence of this bank was largely due to the persistent efforts, in the face of great opposition, of Mr. Schenck and his son, John C. Gilliam Schenck was elected its first president and John C. Schenck its attorney. John C. still remains at the old home, single. At the advanced age of 81, Mr. Schenck still retains all his mental powers and a fair share of physical vigor, Mrs. Schenck is also blessed with comfortable health, and together they are spending the late afternoon of useful successful lives, in the old homestead on the road leading from New Lots to Jamaica. The house is mostly of stone, and was built previous to 1765. This venerable land-mark does not show its age, owing to the good care of its owners. It was partially rebuilt and remodeled in 1792 by Isaac Cornell, father-in-law of Judge Teunis Schenck, who then owned it, and again in 1811 or 1812 by the Judge himself, who lived there from 1794 until his death, in 1842.

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